

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer cluster includes a first computer for running a first instance of an application and a second computer for running a backup instance of the application. The first node provides for  
5 creating a snapshot in volatile RAM of a state associated with the application while it is running. Initially, the snapshot can be created in the form of pointers to RAM used by the application so that the snapshot overlaps application data, but sections of the snapshot can be moved in RAM when the application needs to modify a  
10 section of its memory. The snapshot can then be transferred to a shared disk. In the event of a failure of the first node, the backup instance can begin processing from the state represented by the snapshot rather than from initial conditions.